REMARKS

Claims 1-34 have been cancelled. Claims 35-48 have been added. Therefore, upon entry of this preliminary amendment, Claims 35-48 will be pending in the present application. Entry of Claims 35-48 is believed proper in that no new matter has been added.

The specification has been amended to provide the priority of the present application. No new matter has been added.

Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of the present application.

If a telephonic communication with the Applicants' representative will advance the prosecution of the instant application, please telephone the representative indicated below. Applicant believes no additional fees are due but the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees required in connection with this response to Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole M. Wallinger, Reg. No. 45,194

Attorney for Applicant

MERCK & CO., INC. P.O. Box 2000 Rahway, New Jersey 07065-0907 (908) 594-1077

Date: August 22, 2003